FLAGEL:

OR

A RAMBLE OF FANCY, &c.

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THROUGH THE LAND OF

ELECTIONEERING.

IN THE MANNER OF

THE DEVIL UPON TWO STICKS.

LONDON:

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EXCUDEBAT GULIELMUS BULMER

VICESIMO

ET

FLAGEL:

OR

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CHAP. I.

AMUSING myſelf one evening with The Devil upon Two Sticks, my thoughts received a ſtrange tincture from the peruſal of ſome chapters of that humorous novel. It left a magic upon my mind, of which I could, by no means, diſenchant myſelf; a thouſand diverting ſtories played upon my imagination, and kept it in a quick ſucceſſive motion; till ſinking back in my elbow chair, I fell into a gentle ſleep: my fancy was ſtill awake, and the ſame buſy illuſions played

upon it as before, till growing more and more forgetive, it preſented me with the appearance of a devil no leſs frightful than that which I had been reading of. This ſhapeleſs, deformed figure, was covered with a cloak which reached down to its ancles, variouſly characteriſed with figures, ſo ſtrange and hideous that I neither had the courage nor leiſure to examine them. Judge, ye dreamers of dreams, and ye virgins that ſee viſions, how great muſt have been my ſurprize at the repreſentation of ſuch a group of figures as never before ſtruck the aſtoniſhed eye of man. In the name of every thing that is good, what have we here? quoth I, with a faultering accent. Art thou the great Aſmodeo, the hero of that inimitable piece on my table? or ſome more noble or ignoble devil? for thou comeſt in ſuch a queſtionable ſhape, that I can call thee nothing elſe. Art thou the lawyer's devil, the lover's devil, the gameſter's

gameſter's devil, or—whoſe devil are you? I am Flagel, quoth a voice iſſuing out of a hideous aperture, the ſtateſman's devil, the Soul of Elections, and the Life of Oppoſitions. It is I, that ſet men upon ſpending their fortunes to get a ſeat in P——t, and then ſend them into the South of France to repair it. It is I, that iſſue out writs to the Mayors of Corporations, have a hand in all returns that are made, and preſide in an inviſible ſhape; having under me legions of inviſible aſſociates, called Principles, which affect and perplex matters as I direct. It is I, that diſpoſe men to inſincere profeſſions of friendſhip and ſupport: I am a friend to corrupt miniſters, and an enemy to good ones. I can make wholeſome laws unpopular; and am the adviſer of ſuch as are good, when they ſerve to bring an odium upon the party that propoſes them. I am the patron of diviſions about places, and diſtributor of

the uncertain revenue of Locusts and Periwinkles. I have several little boroughs in Dipsodia absolutely at my command, and never fail of putting in representatives there, and filling up any vacancy. I make men patriots only for the pleasure of unmaking them again; oblige them to throw up their caps, bustle, swear, clamour and bully a little in my cause, and then provide for them as long as they live, and never suffer them to open their mouths any more. I could not help smiling at the account the ingenuous devil gave of himself; and taking courage, I thought I stept up to him, and begged to peruse the figures of his cloak, which I presumed must be emblematical of his office. On the one side was a little country agent slipping five guineas into a tradesman's pocket; on the other, a large company of drunken electors, with their shirt collars unbuttoned, and their wigs a wry: on the forepart was Drunken-

ness,

neſs, led on by Gluttony, both hideous to behold, both in furred robes, with the regalia of magiſtracy laying before them on a table; behind was Perjury, of frightful countenance, leading ſome new electors in her train, all uttering the vileſt imprecations. The figures were too juſt not to ſtrike me, though too horrid to dwell upon by contemplation. Turning from the ſight, I once again beſpoke the demon thus. Pray Mr. Flagel, if that is your name, and you are really the incomparable genius you pretend to be, I beſeech you to give ſome further proof of it, by diſcovering to me what is going on in the world. By all the devil aërial and incarnate, which are no inconſiderable body I'll aſſure you, if you will conſent to accompany me, replied the devil, I will ſhew you as ſtrange things, as ever Aſmodeo did the Batchelor. My curioſity, I thought, got ſo much the better of my prudence, that I do not re-

member

member to have felt any diſtruſt at committing myſelf to the care of this frightful guide. My agility is ſo great, added he, that I can tranſport you in an inſtant to any part of the habitable, or inhabitable world. I am really glad of that, ſays I, Mr. Flagel, becauſe I ſhould like to know what is going forward in more places than one. A man naturally intereſts himſelf in the common occurrences of every place that he knows. Right, quoth the devil, it is a buſy time I'll aſſure you, and, if I miſtake not, the jaunt will prove a delectable amuſement.

Upon this he caught me up, and we cut the liquid air with ſuch incredible velocity, that I could ſcarce fetch my breath; if you had only clap'd a couple of torches under my noſe, and touched the right peg of my fancy, I believe I ſhould have thought (as Don Quixote did

did when he mounted the inchanted horſe) that I had paſſed the Moon, went through Venus, bruſhed my elbow againſt Mercury, darted through Jupiter's ring and Saturn's belt, and ſcorched my brains within half a mile of the Sun. Had I awakened through fear, juſt at that juncture, dreamt that the devil had dropped me, as the eagle did the tortoiſe, or had been rouſed by the fear of any other diſaſter, gentle reader! what a terrible thing it would have been for you? The diſappointment would have been nothing, the world would have loſt — what would it have loſt? Why nothing perhaps — and as for me, I ſhould have been you know, only where I was before, like Sancho Panca, upon my wooden truſſel. I ſhould certainly have been a little diſcompoſed at firſt, till the cerebum, and cerebellum, had recovered their proper tone, and aſſured me of the reality of my ſafety. We cut the li-

quid

quid air, I ſay, with a velocity, whoſe ratio I had no time to eſtimate; there was hardly time to make —*x*— the unknown quantity, before ſouce we came down upon the ridge of a great man's houſe in the metropolis of Dipſodia, which is at leaſt three ſemi diameters of the earth from the place we ſet out from.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

THE very first object that present-
ed itself to me, was a well-dressed gentleman directing the outside covers of several gross of letters. Curiosity is a strong principle of our nature; I'll know something of the history of that man; and turning to my guide, pray Mr. Flagel inform me what that gentleman is about? He is franking some letters to the worthy electors of the borough of Guzzledown, where he hath the honour to represent all the knaves and fools, though he never saw one of them in his life. His letters are filled with assurances, how much he will exert his endeavours to promote the interest of that ancient borough, if he shall have the honour to represent them again:

He talks mightily about liberty, and hath promiſed to have the pariſh engine new painted, the ſtreets paved, and to reduce the price of corn: He hath got the promiſe of an exciſeman's place for the mayor's ſon, and hath aſſured all the aldermen, that their wives, and daughters, ſhall not be forgotten when he comes down. His letters are all the ſame, except one to a drunken cobler, of whom he hath requeſted the favour that he will be chair'd for him, on the day of election, as he cannot poſſibly be there in perſon. In the next room you may ſee his keeper packing up a whole buck to be immediately diſpatched, and to arrive there with his letters. But pray Mr. Devil (interrupted I) do you ſay he never ſaw his conſtituents;-- never in his life, I aſſure you, replied the devil; he appears once in ſeven years in the form of a good dinner; makes the corporation drunk, and hires

the moſt barefaced fellow in the pariſh to repreſent him in the chair, which is almoſt as difficult to procure as a hangman, every man being aſhamed of the office. I always thought that the Dipſodians, ſays I, boaſted of the excellence of their conſtitution, the free choice of the moſt reſpectable men, to repreſent them in the great aſſembly of their nation. This ſingle inſtance, hath corrupted the notions I before entertained of them: what can theſe peohave to repreſent? but their own baſeneſs, venality and corruption! if they ſuffer themſelves to be bought in ſo ſhameful a manner, they muſt neceſſarily expect to be ſold. How exceeding ſtrange would this appear to any one prepoſſeſſed with high opinions of the boaſted ſuperiority of their conſtitution, and ignorant of this corrupted part of it? But to make the excurſion as pleaſing as poſſible, commend me, I

beſeech you, to that perſon who ſeems ſo diſturbed in his reſt, I am impatient to know the cauſe of it. He is a divine, and is juſt now dreaming of a change in the miniſtry, and that his patron (to ſpeak in the modern phraſe) hath *reſigned*. He is already poſſeſſed of two valuable benefices, a good donation, and a prebend; and is in daily expectation of a chancellorſhip in one church, and an archdeaconry in another. It is hardly poſſible for a man to be in a more terrible anxiety of mind, than he is at preſent; and if he ſhould find it true when he awakes (and it is not improbable but that he may) he would never ſhew his face again at his patron's levee. It may not be improper if I make ſome inquiries concerning this man's firſt riſe, that may be ſerviceable to me hereafter: —He roſe the regular way, Sir, replied the devil. He ſet out well in life in his earlier days, went with the times,

and

and turned his coat twenty times in ſeven years, which is become ſo abſolutely neceſſary, that a man who will not follow the faſhion ſo far, perhaps may have no coat at all to turn. He is an old veteran of mine, hath bullied the cauſe through at many an election; turned informer, and, that unleſs he once quarrelled with his patron's ſteward, hath been one of the beſt tools to work with in all the kingdom of Dipſodia. Heavens! I boil with indignation at the man; --hath he nothing elſe to recommend him to the favour of the Great? Nothing elſe to recommend him, maſter of mine! replied the devil with ſome warmth, what could he have better to recommend him to his patron? who never prefers a man for qualities which he hath no taſte for himſelf. Are not the arts of becoming ſerviceable to the corrupted intereſts of great men, and inſtrumental to their advancement, more likely to be

ſerviceable

ſerviceable to him, than learning, worth, a ſenſe of character, or other miſtaken notions, which the ſtarving part of mankind are ruined by? The baron of Thunder-ten-tronk never preferred any man in his life, that had a mind of his own, or dared ſo much as to ſay his ſoul was his own. If they receive his favours, they muſt ſhew themſelves capable of being, ever after, the paſſive inſtruments of his ambition, and ſlaves to his ſelfiſh views. The baron is a great patron, exceeding rich, and makes not the leaſt ſcruple of ruining any man, that has the ſaucy ſpirit to oppoſe him.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

I SWEAR by the ſacred order of molecatchers, goood man Flagel, my faithful guide, and interpreter; thou art the moſt obliging, ſenſible, communicative devil, in the whole Pandemonie, or parliament of devils, which, by what I can find by your charter, is one of the oldeſt and largeſt incorporated ſocieties in the world terreſtrial, hadical, epicene and aquatic.—By all the dainty meats of St. Heliogabalus, I will provide thee ſomething ſavoury at the next tavern, when we have finiſhed our circuit; if there is but one lobſter in the city, not yet committed to priſon by the ſitting alderman, thou ſhalt have it this night for ſupper. By the ambling pace of phyſician Rondibilis's mule,

burn

burn me, thou little goatnoſe, if thou art half ſo much a devil, in the common ſenſe of the word, as ſeven parts in eight of the inhabitants of the ſhires, towns, cities, bailiwicks, county palatines, parochial, and extra-parochial places, of the provinces of Upper Utopia. But pray, while we are upon this ſubject, let me aſk you whether ſpirits and demons do wander up and down in the earth, croſs-buttocking us poor mortals, whenever they meet with us? It ſeems an opinion almoſt as old as the world, that the air, the earth, the ſea, and every thing elſe, hath been full of them; or was it only the ſtory of ſome conjuring Jews, who meeting with old maſter Plato in Egypt, ſent him home figg'd with this notion? However that be, certain it is, he brought him home with him, and terrified all the old women and children of Greece with his hobgoblins. One Diogenes Laertius, Eudoxus

Eudoxus, Hermippus, Ariſtotle and Theopompus, all doctors of theology, and readers of public lectures; beſides ſeveral other maſters of arts, whoſe writings, and the heads of their lectures have been miſlaid, were of the ſame ſide of the queſtion. They taught that there were a ſort of demons, who employed, diverted, buſied, and intereſted themſelves in the affairs of mankind; and were always putting men upon ſome piece of Quixotiſm or other, only that they might laugh at the ſight of them. Aulus Gullius, Plutarch, and ſeveral others that traded in this kind of ware, and travelled (as Jew pedlars do now-a-days) buying up all the devils they could lay their hands on in Egypt and the neighbouring countries, are ready to make affidavit before any of his majeſty's juſtices of the peace, that there was a large aſſortment of ſenior and junior

devils to be met with in every part of the world in their days. Tertullian, Minutius Felix, and ſome of more modern date, were perfectly acquainted with ſeveral of the moſt eminent devils, upon the Grecian eſtabliſhment. There were the Aitherious, Empurious, Aierious, Enoeideis, Noerous, Pſuchickous, of the higher ſort, or devils of quality; and there were the Poikilous, Alogeus, Profgeious of the inferior ſort. The Egyptians ſeem to have had the whole trade of devil-coining in their own hands, and men travelled into that country to make a collection of tight, trig, ſpruce, new-faſhioned devils, at as much pains and expence, as the virtuoſos of our age do, to pick up foſſils and cockle-ſhells, till they eſtabliſhed a manufactory, and created a competent number of devils of their own. Mahomet took the hint, and made ſome very tight, portable

portable devils, that ſat as cloſe to a man's ſhoulder as his ſkin, with little tablets in their hands, to regiſter all the actions of true Muſſelmen. Beſides the large number of devils aforeſaid, other learned and ingenious men have reſolved all human diſaſters into the influence of devils; as plague, peſtilence, and famine, and a hundred more beſides of a no leſs poiſonous and malignant nature.---But what were the devils in the days of old Heber the fifth, from Noah, to the devils of Pope-figland? or to a few of you better ſort of devils and maſter-men, that have ſo much buſineſs upon your hands, and are ſuch entertaining ſpirits. I long to know how you conduct matters, exceedingly? continue to oblige me, by giving me ſome account of your proceedings, and the agency by which you bring about your deſigns. You ſhall hear me pre-

ſently, but turn your eyes this inſtant to yonder tavern, or you will loſe one of the moſt curious ſights perhaps you ever beheld, or may have an opportunity of ſeeing hereafter.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

I SEE a large company round the table, but what exceedingly ſurprizes me, and feeds my curioſity, is, that I cannot eſpy one ſingle noſe in the whole circle. No, replied Flagel, they are this moment fallen off, and every man is feeling for his noſe to no manner of purpoſe. Judge what a ſcene of ſurprize it muſt be to them, and I don't doubt but you are impatient to know the cauſe of this diſaſter. Can you imagine, that it owes its cauſe to any thing ſo remote, as a ſudden change in the miniſtry? It is really the caſe I aſſure you, and I will clear it up to you. Did you never hear of the learned Gaſper Taliocotius of Bononia, Profeſſor of Phyſic and Surgery, and Surgeon to the great duke of Tuſ-

cany, whoſe ſtatue ſtands in the anatomy ſchools there, holding a noſe in its hand? Did you ever hear of this Taliocotius? It is the very identical man, that wrote a Latin treatiſe, called Chirurgia Nota, about the art of engrafting noſes, ears, lips, &c. which Latin treatiſe has paſſed thro' two editions, as Dr. Grey, among many other intereſting particulars, will aſſure you. This Taliocotius, who ſhews, lib. i. chap. 19. that Alexander Benedictus deſcribed the operation for loſt noſes long before he knew any thing of the myſtery, as well as the great anatomiſt Veſalius. This famous rizotomiſt, noſemender and ſpreader of plaiſters, (for whoever has any inclination to know more about him, muſt read Henry Wooton on Ancient and Modern Learning; Ambroſe Pareus, Sir Kenelm Digby, and Mr. Charles Barnard's Works, if he ever wrote any.) This Gaſper was the man, I ſay once for all, that did moſt ingeniouſly contrive, invent,

vent, and put in practice, (as far as I can find to the contrary) the art, myſtery, trade and occupation of engrafting noſes; which, according to the humorous Butler, was on this wiſe

So learned Taliocotius, from
The brawny part of porter's bum,
Cut ſupplemental noſes, which
Wou'd laſt as long as parent breech.

The only inconvenience I could find attending upon theſe noſes was, that if the porter, in a drunken quarrel in the ſtreets, ever got a kick on the b—ch, the noſe-wearer was ſure to feel it by a ſympathizing pain in his noſe, tho' at the diſtance of ſeveral thouſand leagues. If the porter died, the very inſtant the breath was out of his body, the noſe dropped off, tho' the wearer was in the ſtreets of Grand Cairo, or Bengal. Now the materia medica of theſe gentlemens' noſes is not ſo coarſe as that of Taliocotius; tho'

the

the hint was manifeſtly taken from him at firſt. The noſes you ſee, or rather the noſes you do not ſee, were all taken from the poſteriors of a miniſter who hath this moment reſigned; in conſequence of which event, the company you ſee, all of whom were his friends and dependants, have loſt their noſes. Thou moſt delectable, waggiſh, little devil, cried I, with what a magic of enchantment have you tranſported my fancy? Give me leave to aſk, how it is poſſible for any one man to furniſh out any conſiderable ſupply from ſuch a fund, in any meaſure to anſwer the demands of his many friends and dependants? The miniſter, replies the demon, cannot indeed afford them of ſo large a ſize as the great duke's ſurgeon; but that, as they had no relation to any other part of the body, the ladies had not the leaſt occaſion to be diſguſted at their ſize, and the knight companions of this order had the privilege of wearing

their

their own proper noſes at their button-holes. In ſhort, ſays he, there is a perfect reſemblance between Taliocotius noſes and the miniſter's, for in either caſe it happens, according to Butler,

> That when the date of Nock is out,
> Off drops the ſympathetic ſnout.

Tho' they cannot ſhew their faces to much advantage without noſes, yet they muſt reſt ſatisfied till the reſtitution of loſt noſes, which in all probability may be before I have finiſhed the next chapter.

CHAP. V.

WHEN a minister's out of place, I would advise him by all means to drive down to his country seat, and amuse himself, as uncle Toby did, by whistling lullabilero in his elbow chair, and 'tis ten to one, but he is called into place again before he has got to the end of his tune.

CHAP. VI.

DO you ſee a lady in bed notably beſtirring herſelf to ſtrike a light with a flint and ſteel, while her poor huſband ſeems expiring in the utmoſt agonies for want of timely aſſiſtance: Poor ſoul! by the diſtortions of his countenance you would judge he was racked with the moſt bitter and afflicting pains. I really judge ſo Mr. Flagel, and if I was ſuch a demon as you are, I think I ſhould be tempted out of pure compaſſion to the infirmities of her huſband, to let her light her match at my ***. Can you conceive, rejoined the demon, what the occaſion of all that buſtle is? The man that ſeems in ſuch diſtreſs, is juſt awakened out of his ſleep; he was hired yeſterday to write a pamphlet on the dearneſs of proviſions, and has

juſt dreamt that the great number of lap-dogs kept by ladies of quality, is one great cauſe of our preſent ſcarcity. He hath dreamt this thought, and for fear he ſhould forget it before morning, he has wak'd his wife to provide a light, that he may ſet it down upon paper. Surely, quoth I to my guide, if he has no better thoughts than theſe to amuſe his wife with, I ſuppoſe ſhe will hardly thank him. Turn your eyes to bearded Wiſdom ſtretched on his pallet in yonder room, and ſee how thoſe worſhipful jaws wag, I beſeech you. The man is talking in his ſleep quoth I, ſurely, or I am deceived. You are right quoth the devil; a cauſe is coming on before him to-morrow, and as is uſual cuſtom is, he is dreaming for the parties, and acting the affair over to himſelf. Did you never hear of Judge Bridlegooſe's maxim? who after hearing a cauſe debated before him, and the witneſſes on both ſides,

uſed

uſed to withdraw, and with a box of dice which he always kept by him, throw a hit for the plaintiff and another for the defendant. Now this man will indulge himſelf in a profound ſleep, while a cauſe is pleading before him, and really aſk ſeveral pertinent queſtions by a knack which he has acquired, full as well as if he was wide awake; many years practice hath made him ſo perfect, that it hath to all intents and purpoſes ſupplied his want of ſagacity.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

NOW we are upon the ſubject of dreams, pray good man Flagel inform me, by what ſecret impulſe upon the nervous ſyſtem they are brought about, and by what influence from without it is, that the ſleeping man often feels his fancy ſo tickled as it is. I have a vaſt notion that they muſt be often brought about by the officiouſneſs of ſome of thoſe little intelligences or aid-de-camps to what Socrates calls a man's attendant genius. The Roman Poet obſerevs indeed, that quiſque ſuos petitur manes, which if I conſtrue the paſſage right, means no more, than that every man has his peculiar devil, and conſequently he is intitled to all that devil's devils, which I think you before hinted, were a kind of journeymen

neymen and aſſiſtants to you their princi-
pals. Now I have a ſhrewd gueſs, this
moment ſtriking tranſverſly, and knock-
ing for admittance at the lodge of my
heart, kept by certain ſpirits, called Ani-
mal-ſpirits, which I have heard the meta-
phyſicians talk about, that dreams are
ſuggeſted to the ſleeping man by the a-
foreſaid acceſſaries; and I find from a paſ-
ſage in Shakeſpear, that an opinion not
much unlike mine prevailed ſome where
or other.

O then I ſee Queen Mab hath been with you,
She is the Fancy's midwife, and ſhe comes
In ſhape no bigger than an agat ſtone
On the forefinger of an Alderman,
Drawn with a team of little atomies
Athwart mens noſes as they lie aſleep:
Her waggon ſpokes made of long ſpinner's legs;
Her cover, of the wings of graſshoppers;
The traces, of the ſmalleſt ſpider's web;
The collars, of the moonſhine's watry beams;
Her whip, of crickets bones; the laſh of film;
Her waggoner, a ſmall grey-coated knat
Not half ſo big as a round little worm

Prickt

Prickt from the lazy finger of a maid.
Her chariot is an empty hazel nut
Made by the joiner Squirrel or old Grub,
Time out of mind the fairies coach-makers.
And in this ſtate ſhe gallops night by night
Through lovers brains, and then they dream of love.
Oe'r courtiers knees, that dream on curtſies ſtrait.
Oe'r lawyers fingers, who ſtrait dream on fees.
Oe'r ladies lips, who ſtrait on kiſſes dream.
Sometimes ſhe gallops oe'r a lawyer's noſe
And then dreams he of ſmelling out a ſuit.
And ſometimes comes ſhe with a tithe-pig's tail
Tickling the parſon as he lies aſleep;
Then dreams he of another benefice.
Sometimes ſhe driveth oe'r a ſoldier's neck
And then dreams he of cutting foreign throats,
Of breaches, ambuſcadoes, Spaniſh blades
Of health's five fathom deep; and then anon
Drums in his ears, at which he ſtarts and wakes,
And being thus frighted, ſwears a prayer or two
And ſleeps again.———

Now I take this Queen Mab, whoſe employment the Poet ſo humorouſly deſcribes, to be no other than a miſtreſs to ſome of you demons of quality: but hark, I hear a jolly company, carouſing at yonder tavern.

CHAP. VIII.

LIBERTY! property! and no excise!—Confuſion to placemen and penſioners! Huzza!—Jolly boys, a-faith maſter Flagel, pray inform me who they are, and on what occaſion they are met? They are ſome gentlemen, quoth the devil, who were this morning turned out of their places upon the change I before told you of. They are now ſetting up for patriots, and the oppoſers of the Court. They have almoſt drained the nation dry to ſupport them with penſions; and have the barefac'd impudence to pretend to be the friends of Liberty. Ignorance and incapacity in their reſpective offices, were the pleas urged againſt them while in place, which now-a-days run away with the full reward of effectual ſervice; they have

no occaſion to repine at their diſmiſſion, becauſe they retire upon good penſions, as the reward for their incapacity. A reward for incapacity, Mr. Flagel, is what I never heard of before; I ſhould have imagined, that it was a ſufficient reaſon of itſelf to exclude them from places of *reſponſibility*, as the faſhionable word is: by no means replied the devil: would you expect that a ſoldier ſhould fight in defence of his king and country, and hazard his life bravely, only becauſe it was his duty to do ſo; no, not in times when a man may expect to be made a — for not running away, while another is hanged to ſave the credit of thoſe from whom he received his inſtructions, to behave as he did. No, theſe are inſtances too freſh in every body's memory, to occaſion any great degree of ſurprize at what you ſee in theſe men. But to make this excurſion as entertaining as poſſible, and to diverſify it with

as

as many ſcenes as are conſiſtent with the time we have to ſpare, let us proceed; but hold, do you not ſee a gentleman buſied in writing ſomething at yonder houſe? it is only an advertiſement which runs thus: "A report having been induſtriouſly ſpread, that I had declined being a candidate to repreſent your ancient borough, I beg leave to aſſure you, that nothing is at preſent further from my intention, being encouraged by ſuch a vaſt majority of worthy freemen, &c." 'Tis very proper, replied I, Mr. Devil, to obviate reports of this ſort, which are generally ſpread by the enemies of the candidates with great care; true, quoth he, but it is not the caſe. I'll aſſure you at preſent, no report of that kind hath yet prevailed; the candidate indeed hath been a little dilatory in ſupplying the demands of his conſtituents, and for fear ſuch a report ſhould be ſpread, is reſolved to be before-

hand with them. It is a very common maneuvre I'll assure you, and sometimes answers the purpose very well; it will reach the Borough to-morrow morning, and be confirmed by a good dinner upon table exactly at two. I sometimes, Mr. Flagel, examine the advertisements in the news-papers, and always find that every candidate hath a clear majority of worthy electors in his favour, on which he begs leave to assure himself of success: now were this really the case, what a strange peice of work the returning officer would have of it after casting up the poll? but however that be, I conceive it may be proper to assure the electors, how much their success exceeded their *most sanguine* expectations, in order to give them a fairer title to the general support.

Do you see a scrivener at that table filling up a skin of parchment. He is foisting

foiſting into a deed an hundred equivocal expreſſions by the order of his maſter, who is a petty-fogging attorney; of all which the cunning ſhaver knows how to make his advantage. Little do the ignorant parties think, what they are like to be drawn into, when they ſign it, as they expect to do to their mutual ſatisfactions. It will occaſion ſo much litigation hereafter between them, and be ſo bandied from Court to Court, as muſt in the end terminate in the utter ruin of both parties, while the council retained for them, ſhall be carouſing over the ſpoils, and toaſting to the glorious uncertainty of the law.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

TURN your eyes upon one of the grandeſt exhibitions which have been ever exhibited in any country before beſides Egypt. Why it ſeems to be the great Sieur, performing his grand magical card deceptions, his unparallelled ſympathetical figures, and his operations of ſterganographick, or the art of imbibing peoples thoughts in an inſtant, by the help of his inviſible agent. The ſame truly, quoth the demon, and do you not obſerve how the people gape about the room, and while he is cutting off the cock's head, half of them are feeling whether their own is ſafe upon their ſhoulders. Can you conceive what a kind of devil his inviſible agent is, by which

he

he performs all theſe wonders? His firſt parent lived in Egypt, in the early days of the world, practiſed legerdemain, and exhibited his grand exhibitions in divers countries for ſeveral years, till endeavouring to extend his circuit over all the world, and to cheat poor people out of their ſenſes and money together; he had the ill luck to encounter a good ſpirit that watched over mankind with a friendly care, in which encounter he had his head broke in ſo ſhocking a manner, that he was ſoon taken priſoner, put into chains, and kept in priſon, where he is to this day. The inviſible agent eſcaped, being young and nimble, and fell into company with one Simon Magus, with whom he took his abode for ſome time, till hearing that Mahomet had obtained a patent for building a theatre, or great room, wherein to exhibit his operations, he was invited over to take the management of it,

and

and to caſt the parts. Ever ſince that time he hath been rambling with one Sieur or another, from place to place. Thoſe that travel with theſe kind of devils, make an admirable good trade of it, I'll aſſure you. I was thinking, Mr. Flagel, ſays I, that if one of theſe Sieurs, or Seers, at this buſy time of the year, ſhould employ his talents to a higher purpoſe, it might anſwer very well; and indeed I wonder they do not. Suppoſe now for inſtance, one of them was to advertiſe in the papers, to this effect:—

To the worthy Candidates for the ſeveral Counties, Cities, Boroughs, Cinque Ports, &c. of the Kingdom.

THIS is to give notice, that there is lately arrived from Sardinia, the Sieur Poliphloſboco Poteroſki, who by his wonderful operations, exceeds every thing hitherto

hitherto exhibited in this kingdom, upon a perfectly new plan.

First, he obliges any free-holder for the county, freeman, burgeſs, inhabitant, or potwabler, of any city or town, to vote for which of the candidates he pleaſes; without making him drunk, or intoxicating him with any kind of ſpirituous liquors.

Secondly, after the name of any perſon voted for, hath paſſed from the voter's mouth, he changes the name of ſuch perſon into that of his opponent or competitor, before it reaches the ear of the returning officer, or his clerk.

Thirdly, he proves to the ſatisfaction of the whole company, that the perſon whom they all thought had given his voice for Tom à-Nokes did in reality vote for John Stiles; with many other mat-

ters of equal importance, too tedious now to mention.

N. B. As his attendance at all places at once is incompatable, he is ready to inſtruct any agent for a handſome premium; or if required in perſon, he can be of the ſame ſervice to the Intereſt that hires him, if he appears at the exact time of cloſing the Poll; becauſe he can transfer a competent number of names from one ſide of the book to the other, ſo as to ſecure a clear majority in favour of which ſide he pleaſes.

There doth not ſeem to be any thing very wonderful in ſome of theſe articles, becauſe I have known them done before by many, who never paſſed for conjurers, ſays the devil. I have now ſeveral agents employed at different places, that at theſe tricks would beat the beſt foreign

conjurer

conjurer in the world. Beſides this, We devils are too complaiſant to intrude upon one anothers provinces. If I ſhould catch any conjurer's in my walk, but my own, I ſhould maul the dogs heartily for it; I ſhould utterly deſtroy all their unparallelled ſympathetic figures, at one ſtroke. The devil ſpoke theſe laſt words with ſuch emphaſis and emotion, that I made no reply, but begged of him to tell me, how many young devils, or demoniacal atoms, or particles, were a full complement to be at once employed, at any one place, in managing and conducting the matters and concerns of that place.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

THAT matter is diviſible, ad-infinitum, is a part of its definition, and a principle of natural philoſophy. Now ſuppoſe a ——, or any other kind of perfume, emitted from an orifice in ever ſuch ſmall proportions at a time, it will in a ſhort time get an acquaintance, aſſociate, and fall in company with all the circumundulating atoms of air throughout a whole drawing-room, dreſſing-room, dining-room, or card-room; from hence it muſt follow, as a corollary, that the atoms ſo incorporating themſelves, with the others around them, muſt of courſe be immenſely ſmall, and pervade ſeveral interſtices which the other columns of air occupied before; whether by diſ-

placing

placing altogether, or putting into a tremulous dancing, jarring kind of motion, is not altogether ſo neceſſary to enquire into; but it follows, that they muſt be of neceſſity very ſmall, or elſe emitted in ſuch ſmall proportion, I mean (ſmall proportion, with reſpect to the whole body of aërial atoms comprehended in any of the rooms before ſpecified) they could not ſo ſoon be perceived by the company aſſembled. Now lay the ſmalleſt conceivable atom of ſuch matter, upon a chopping-block, and cut into ten thouſand ſmaller parts, you cannot alter the nature of it; you may diverſify the figure, but as ſolidity and extenſion are inſeparable from the definition of it, if you divide it into ten thouſand parts more, it is ſtill matter, becauſe an upper part and an under ſtill remain, which if it did not retain, according to all the philoſophers in the world, it would ceaſe to

be

be matter. It is in much the ſame manner that inferior kind of devils that are employed by us, dilate or expand themſelves in form and figure, as ſeemeth them beſt; ſome are ſo ſmall, that they can creep into the vent-hole of a pipe of wine, or a barrel of porter, and by a ſecret influence gain over many to a party who would otherwiſe have oppoſed it. In like manner Milton repreſents his devils as reducing their ſhapes in order to get into their Parliament houſe.—

Thus incorporeal ſpirits to ſmalleſt forms
Reduc'd their ſhapes immenſe.—

And thus, as I feel a propenſity to ſpeak in verſe myſelf,

Others are order'd cloſe to lie
Conceal'd in odorous pidgeon-pye;
And thence as ſoon as open, burſt
With force repulſive from the cruſt,
And ſavoury effluvia bear
To noſe of Alderman or Mayor.

In

In ſhort, there are thouſands of inviſible ſpirits always employed in theſe affairs, whoſe offices are as various as the ſhapes they aſſume; and by ſearching out the tempers of thoſe they have to deal with, can always lay ſome bait in their way to entrap them; of whom the ſame Milton ſpeaks,

> Now leſs than ſmalleſt dwarfs, in narrow room
> Throng numberleſs.

while we better ſort of devils are like ourſelves, as repreſented a few lines after:

> ——— But far within
> And in their own dimenſions like *themſelves*,
> The great ſeraphic Lords and Cherubim
> In cloſe receſs, and ſecret conclave ſat;
> A thouſand demi-gods on golden ſeats;
> Frequent and full.———

Theſe

Theſe laſt words the devil pronounced with ſuch an air of importance, and ſuch an elevation of voice and emphaſis, as ſhewed he had ſome little pride in being thought a firſt-rate devil.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

DO you not ſee a houſe with large and convenient battlements? we will reſt there, quoth the demon, and regale ourſelves with ſome good repaſt; ſcarce had we alighted, but he ſtamped his foot upon the floor, and inſtantly there ſprang up a table ready ſpread with a moſt elegant entertainment upon it, and forty young devils leaped up, as Orion is ſaid to have done when the three drunken gods p-ſſ-d into the bull's hide. Help yourſelf to what you like, ſays the demon, there is plenty of every thing before you; and as for wine, there is ſome of the beſt in the world. The cates looked ſo delicious and tempting, that I needed no

great deal of invitation to accept of ſuch a favour, and attempted to ſtick my knife into ſomething that pleaſed my eye; thrice I attempted to bring it upon my plate, and thrice it returned empty; thrice I had a great mind to have put myſelf into a paſſion, and thrice I reſolved to keep my temper. I will try ſomething elſe, ſays I to myſelf; and 'ſpying a fine turtle, I wiſhed myſelf an alderman, or at leaſt one of the common-council of the city, the maſter of ſome company, a churchwarden, overſeer, or any thing that could eat well: the deuce a bit of ſubſtance could I feel, or a morſel of calapaſh or calapee could I get upon my plate. In an inſtant a little devil that had watchfully obſerved me, catch'd up the diſh, and away with it he flew. Harkee you young Harpey, (for I recollected that the little devil muſt be ſuch a one as Virgil deſcribes,) do you mean

mean to carry the diſh quite away, or do you perſonate Don Regio the phyſician, and think you have got Sancho Panca here, the governor of Bavataria; ſet the diſh down this inſtant, or I will cleave your ſcull. Scarce had I mentioned theſe words, but all the devils catched up a diſh, and cleared the table in a moment.—I turned my eyes upon the maſter devil, my hoſt, who burſt out into a fit of laughter in my face. You ſeem diſappointed in the repaſt, ſays he, recovering himſelf; there is ſome good uſe to be drawn from the harmleſs trick that hath been play'd you. The inchanted viands you ſaw, what are they but the promiſes of a great man, and the profeſſions of his friendſhip and ſupport. Was you never deceived by a falſe appearance before your eyes? if you never was, it will probably be you fortune. The ſprightly

turn which the demon gave to my disappointed hopes, pleased me, and made me a full amends for the loss of the repast. We will now, says he, pursue our circuit, and if I am not mistaken, we shall presently be spectators of something humorous and diverting.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

HEY day! what a riot and uproar have ye yonder; hats and caps both of the maſculine and feminine gender, flying about yon room, like crabs at a country wake. Pray Mr. Devil explain to me the occaſion of ſo much confuſion. You muſt firſt know, ſays he, that the greater part of the company you ſee, are met to be ſpectators of a puppet-ſhew this evening exhibited in that room. It happened that an entertainment was given in the ſame houſe by their candidates for the borough to a ſet of jolly cavaliers, who were aſſembled to drink the healths of thoſe worthy gentlemen. Now an unlucky wag, on purpoſe to breed a riot, put a

ſpeech

ſpeech in Punch's mouth, tending to reflect upon the credit and character of the candidates, which ſoon reached the ears of their friends aſſembled in the next room; and if we had been only a few minutes ſooner, we ſhould have been preſent when they entered the room to call Punch to an account for his inſolent reflections. As it is, they have cried havock, and let ſlip the dogs of war; what bloody work they have made! let us ſtop one moment to eſtimate the miſchief done.—Punch tore limb from limb by the offended party.--The king of Pruſſia ſet upon by nine journeymen taylors, but moſt heroically reſcued with the loſs of his noſe by two zealous coblers, who accompanied him all the laſt war in his marches and battles.--Empreſs queen depoſed by a journeyman weaver.--The king of the two Sicilies in the hands of a young ſurgeon,

geon, who hath already diſſected him. ---Several other European powers entirely diſcomfited by the action of this night.--The Shew-man down upon his knees aſking pardon for the affront given, and aſſuring them, in behalf of the mangled hero of his drama, that the facetious demoliſhed gentleman had not the leaſt intention of affronting the friends of any of the company.---His wife ſwearing to arraign them for high treaſon, and calling them all a pack of king-killing raſcals.--The monkey got looſe, chattering on the higheſt pinnacle of the ſcaffold:--In ſhort, a ſcene of bloodſhed and confuſion. But its juſt the humour of theſe kind of people, and if the moſt reſpectable characters in Europe had in perſon ſaid as much as Punch did, they would not have far'd much better if they had fallen into their hands. The zeal of this kind of peo-

ple

ple is always in proportion to the entertainments that are given them, and if they ſhould be invited to-morrow night to any new treat, they would be as zealous in the cauſe of any other perſon, as long as an intereſt was ſecured in their bellies.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

I Wonder the gentleman, ſays I, Mr. devil, whom we ſee at the adjoining houſe, is not more diſturbed than he ſeems to be on this occaſion. Ha, ha, ha, 'tis rather unlucky indeed, replies the demon, that he was not preſent to the ſcene. It might have furniſhed him with ſome uſeful hints I'll aſſure you. He is fabricating the ſhell of a novel upon a new-conſtructed plan. The beſt writers in that way uſed to draw their characters from real life, and a perfect acquaintance with the ſocial and polite world; but there are many now-a-days that will ſpin you a novel out of their own brains, without being beholden to nature or a knowledge of the world. The firſt thing is to fix

upon ſome ſoft names for the characters of the piece. The heroine of the tale muſt be a Charlotte or a Louiſa, ſuſceptible of all the tender feelings of her ſex, and the idea of an accompliſhed woman. Her lover a man of breeding and gaiety, with a name as ſoft as the ladies. The lady muſt write billet-doux with eaſe and elegance, and the gentleman muſt read them with all the ſoft emotions of the moſt paſſionate love. She muſt be always ogling, pleaſing, tormenting to admiration, putting out the coals of his love, and then blowing them up again; and he muſt be expert in twirling his cane round his fingers, and handing his ſnuff-box and eau de luce bottle with a grace. She muſt go to Bath in a poſt-chaiſe and four, and he muſt follow her the next day in the Bath machine. She muſt be admired by all the company there, and he muſt be affronted by the maſter

of

of the ceremonies the very firſt evening, and be prevented with the utmoſt difficulty from drawing his ſword in the Pump-room. Now this very adventure, had he been a ſpectator of it, as we were, might have furniſhed him with a very pretty digreſſion. Digreſſion is mighty entertaining ſometimes. Suppoſe you and I were walking upon the high road to any place upon buſineſs or a viſit, may we not amuſe ourſelves by ſtepping now and then out of the high road to ſee what is going on behind a hedge? Muſt we go on in the ſame beaten track where nothing grows, for fear, if we ſtep aſide a little to look upon any thing diverting, we ſhould not be able to find our way back again. There is a really pretty proſpect from the brow of the hill, let us lean over that ſtile, and take a view of the plain beneath. Methinks I ſhould like to make that village in our way, if

it is not too far about. There is Margery with her milk-pail, and honeſt Roger going to fetch up her cows. Do you think they never digreſs? Thou art a merry devil, in truth, ſays I; and if there was nothing more required in writing a novel, I would try what I could do in that way. But I muſt, in the firſt place, let the world know what a merry devil thou art, and what a variety of characters you have this very night introduced to my acquaintance, and that forthwith, or perhaps they will eſcape my memory. Shew me ſomething new, thou delectable little ſpirit, it is what all the world is enquiring after this very moment; all the world I mean that is awake at this time of night. New things are like childrens rattles, they ſerve to play with for a ſeaſon, and then they are thrown by and diſregarded, and it is very proper it ſhould be ſo.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

COMMEND me, I beſeech you, this inſtant to that ſcribe up to the chin in paper. He is clerk, I ſuppoſe, to ſome country attorney, and preparing for ſome cauſe that is coming on? You are miſtaken replies the demon. He is copying a circular letter to the gentry, clergy, and freeholders of the county of ----; he hath already wrote twenty dozen, in all which are ſix ingramaticiſms moſt faithfully preſerved through every one of the copies. He complains as grievouſly of the hard drudgery, as the letter doth of the inſincerity of a certain great man. Hey day! Why there appears at no great diſtance a youth employed at much the ſame

ſame kind of buſineſs, with a ſmall ruſh-light, ſix and thirty of which go to the pound. I ſuppoſe now Mr. Devil he is employed in ſome buſineſs much of the ſame nature as the former. True, quoth Flagel, he is, for his maſter having heard of his intended opponent's ſcheme, hath ſet his ſecretary to work that he may not be behind-hand in his application. The letter begins thus, "Finding to my ſurprize that Mr. ---- hath ſignified his intention of offering himſelf a candidate for, &c." Why, the work at this houſe, maſter Devil, ſeems in as great readineſs as at the other; true, quoth the demon, and in all probability will be ſent out firſt. Certainly then it muſt occaſion ſome kind of confuſion, ſeeing it ſuppoſes application to have been already made from another quarter. No matter for that, ſays the devil, there is often much haſte

haſte and little ceremony in theſe matters. But whom do we eſpy on the top of that ſumptuous ſtaircaſe. Oh, it is the maſter of the houſe, and the writer of the letter, who having dreamt that the butler had left the key of the ſmall-beer cellar in the door, is coming down in his ſhirt and night-cap to take poſſeſſion of it. He is prodigious rich, but no one is ever likely to be the better for it.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

DO you ſee a perſon in a room by himſelf, ſtanding in the attitude of a tragedian? He is rehearſing a tragedy which he wrote lately, and intends ſhortly to bring upon the ſtage if approved by the managers. What is it he is bawling ſo loud.

Tell me by all the melting joys of love,
By the warm tranſports and intrancing languors,
By the ſoft fanning of the wafting ſheets,
By the dear tremblings of the bed of bliſs,
By all theſe tender adjurations tell me,
Am I not fit to write a tragedy?

Faith, I think thou art; what is your opinion, Mr. Devil; don't you think a man of

of his genius can pluck "bright honour from the pale-fac'd moon;" and yet for my own part, I confeſs, I don't like tragedy ſo well, ſince operas have come ſo much into faſhion. Now I own I ſee no reaſon why tragic operas ſhould not ſucceed as well as comic ones. Suppoſe now one was to venture to write ſomething of this kind, and make the heroes of the piece fall a ſinging before they engage and kill one another,

Juſt like the dying ſwan before ſhe dies.

What do you think of that now, and ſo ſing, and fight, and kill, and quaver all in tune; don't you think it well adapted to the Italian muſic? I ſwear, for my own part, by all the beards of all the writers of tragedy from the days of Euripides, down to the preſent time, I really think a piece of this kind would take admirably well. I would make a Welch

main of it, they ſhould all be killed but one; and when two bloody-minded men met in battle, like Richard and Richmond, each his ſword drawn — his ponderous ſhield,

> Etherial temper, maſſy, large and round
> Behind him caſt

the muſic ſhould inſtantly ſtrike up, and the heroes ſhould begin fighting "to the notes of flutes, and ſoft recorders," or as I may ſay, "*with notes angelical to many a harp.*" I wiſh with all my heart Mr. Devil, I could prevail upon this man to write a tragedy upon this plan; I would inſure the ſucceſs of it, eſpecially if he wrote it in a ſtyle equal to the ſpeech he rehearſed juſt now. How admirably would it ſound from the mouth of a Garrick or a Powell? How entertaining would it be to the audience, to hear them groaning out their laſt ſpirits

in a juſt cadence to the muſic, and dying exactly in tune! or ſinging a pathetic funeral dirge before their interment. But what work hath the gentleman made of his tragedy, Mr. Devil, killing work I'll lay my life. Hath he provided a ſufficient quantity of poiſon, daggers, and other things neceſſary to finiſh and compleat a good tragedy. You will ſee it ſoon, the world will be favoured with a ſight of it in a ſhort time, and you may have an opportunity of perſuading him to begin another upon your plan, which hath the air of novelty to recommend it, I own. Till ſomething worth our notice preſents itſelf, if you will give me leave, Mr. Flagel, I'll tell you a ſtory; with all my heart, ſays the devil, and if you will give me leave I'll hear it.

CHAP. XVI.

A Friend of mine, Mr. Flagel, happened the other day to dine with a large aſſortment of company of all kinds, as is uſual at ſuch public entertainments as are given to keep up an intereſt, and to give the friends of the candidate an opportunity of ſhowing how zeal is connected with good eating and drinking. It was his fortune to be placed near a gentleman, who took every opportunity of making himſelf known to my friend, by bowing very reſpectfully to him every time he caſt his eyes upon him; which compliment, my friend, who is an exceeding worthy, well-bred man, though an entire ſtranger to his perſon, as reſpectfully returned. Dinner being

being over, the gentleman ſeemed deſirous of renewing his acquaintance with my friend. I believe, Sir, ſays he, you do not recollect me, though I muſt have the honour to be perſonally known to you. My friend aſſured the gentleman, that it was his misfortune ſometimes to meet with gentlemen whom he could not immediately recollect, which he begged leave to aſſure him, was really the caſe at preſent. I am ſurprized at that, Sir, replies the gentleman; you muſt certainly remember me. *I made your breeches.* From the exterior of his perſon, my friend ſuppoſing that he had ſaid *Major Bridges*, and as he had ſome acquaintance with ſeveral military gentlemen, immediately thought that the gentleman might probably have been known to him before. Major Bridges, ſays my friend, I am extremely glad to ſee you, I hope Mrs. Bridges, and your good family are

well,

well; at the ſame time ſqueezing him by the hand. The ſuppoſed Major was quite aſtoniſhed at the miſtake my friend made, and ſtood ſtaring like a ſtuck pig, while the attention of the whole company, to all of whom he was a perfect ſtranger, was fixed upon him. I believe, Sir, ſays he, you are miſtaken in the perſon you took me for. I am journeyman to Mr. ——, and had the honour to make the breeches you have got on. The company burſt out into a loud laugh, and my friend joined moſt heartily with them. A good merry ſtory, a-faith, quoth the devil, he was no major then, I ſuppoſe. No major, Mr. Devil, how is it poſſible, a journeyman taylor only. Why, replies the devil, he might have been a journeyman taylor, and a major of the M—— too. You are pleaſed to be funny, maſter Flagel, ſays I, but pray tell me, what is the occaſion of that poor gentle-

man's

man's looking ſo melancholy; how ſolitary he ſits poring over a letter which he ſeems to have lately received. Heavy news, maſter Flagel, I read it in his face. You are right, quoth the devil, he hath this evening received that letter from ſome of his conſtituents, whom he ſupplied with nothing but promiſſory notes, all of which are returned proteſted this day, and they all threaten to put up a *freſh man*. They have ſent an advertiſement to the papers this day, it was drawn up by a company of wool-combers, and runs thus. Wanted immediately — a Candidate for the Borough of ——, that will promiſe to take a halfpenny a quart off of the duty upon ſtrong beer and porter, reduce the price of butchers meat and bread, &c. Whoever this may ſuit, may hear of a place, by applying forthwith to the box-club ſociety, kept at the Biſhop Blaze at ——. N. B. No gen-

tleman

tleman needs apply, unleſs he underſtands trade. — Our wives deſire that tea and ſugar may be made cheaper.

Poor gentleman, then he is like to meet with a cool reception, I ſuppoſe, from thoſe who before profeſſed themſelves his friends. No, they ſay, that he hath deceived them, by telling them as how that a law is made againſt eating and drinking at ſuch times, and he is afraid of being peached, if he ſhould order them a round of beef at the tavern, and that feaſting only encreaſes the price of proviſions. In good truth, Mr. Devil, I think, that if they had ſent a few more of theſe drinking gluttonous fellows to the Roundhouſe, it might have had a good effect; you might as well have perſuaded a poor fellow to have taken a ſhilling of a recruiting ſerjeant as of an agent, and as fearful of taking a bone of

mutton

mutton and a draught of beer, as an halbert. The conſequence of which would be, that an honeſt man that had but a little money, would ſtand as fair a chance of ſucceeding as another that came from the devil knows where, with a great deal of money got the devil hardly knows how. Ha! ha! ha! I love to hear you talk of honeſty. Why money doth every thing in this world; as ſoon might you expect to feaſt upon enchanted viands as live upon honeſty. Will honeſty get a man a dinner, will it pay a baker's bill? Will the tallow chandler accept it for a pound of ſhort twelves? Will it pay a doctor's bill? Can it dreſs leather, or make ſhoes? Can it cut out a coat, or even a pair of breeches? No! then honeſty is neither a victualler, baker, tallow-chandler, doctor, taylor, nor any thing elſe, whereby a man can live. So

here ends my catechiſm of honeſty. Commend me, I beſeech you, to all your honeſt men, and if I don't put them in the way of doing better without it, may I never do an ill turn more.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

DO you ſee ſome men at that preſs, Mr. Flagel; what are they printing, pray, Sir? Is it an Archdeacon's Charge, a Prize Poem, a Dying Speech, or what is it? It is, quoth the devil, only a common news-paper, which at this time of the year is generally very entertaining. At other times indeed, were it not that about Chriſtmas, or in the hard weather, a Rook ſhould now and then chooſe to build her neſt or hatch her young ones, or an apple or pear-tree ſhould venture to expoſe its tender bloſſoms to the inclemency of the ſeaſon, to the icy fang of froſt, or the churliſh chiding of the winter's wind, believe me there would be ſcarce any thing worthy

of notice. 'Tis a poor piping time of peace; nothing now is heard of marches and counter-marches, ſcarps or counter-ſcarps, breaches, ambuſcadoes, enſigns, drums, ſwords, guns, fifes. No account of victories which came ſo thick one upon the other as ſcarce gave the old politician time to hang his cane on the wriſt of his left hand, while he ſtirred his coffee with his right. Not one word of paſſing rivers, entering and re-entering territories, advances, retreats, going up hill only to come down again. Armies ſent by one power to reconnoitre thoſe of the other, and to obſerve their motions, hence called emphatically Armies of Obſervation. Not a ſyllable of our fighting friend the King of Pruſſia chanted thro' the noſe of a pſalm-ſinging cobler to his whole club of a Sunday night. In ſhort, were not ſome pleaſed to marry and beget children, others to die, break,

run away, rob, get turned in or out of place, we ſhould not think that the world kept at all in motion. At this time indeed there is generally ſomething entertaining, and I have ſome inclination to ſhew you one of the papers. The devil inſtantly ſummoned a little devil, and ſent him with a ϛαση ιθι ουλε Ονειϛε to fetch a paper to him. We ſat upon the ridge of the houſe and read as follows:

SHIP NEWS.

W. S. W. Cleared out of port, the Firkin Sloop, Entire Butt, Commander, with porter for ——; the Race-horſe, Croſs and Joſtle, with hides and raw tallow; the Twangdillo, Stormfort; the Aſſurance, Dunkirk; the Poor Lords Laidlow; the Honeſt Bob, Banyard, with wines for ſeveral ports. Others are daily taking in their lading.

LONDON.

L O N D O N.

A letter from Oporto, dated Feb. 23, ſays, "The merchants of this place have received the diſagreeable news of the g——l e——n's coming on ſooner than was expected; the vigour with which meaſures were carried on in the ſeveral counties, cities, and boroughs of Great Britain was felt in the prodigious increaſe of the exportation of our wines, an event which cannot fail of proving very fatal to the trade of this flouriſhing city.

Letters from Corſica mention, that the Paſcal Paoli was coming over to England on a viſit to the Rev. Mr. B—, the noted S—k Clergyman, in order to invite that gentleman over to frame a codex of laws.

Laſt week ſeveral m—rs went to the H—, violently oppoſed the m—y, but made

made no ſpeeches; in the evening they went to the ſeveral taverns, to meet the worthy non-reſident burgeſſes and freemen, got drunk, and made a great many.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Laſt night about 12, Mr. ——, a great ſpeaker, was ſuddenly taken ſpeechleſs, and immediately conveyed to bed; he fell into a profound ſleep, and awaked perfectly recovered the next morning. It is obſerved that this gentleman is ſubject to be taken in this manner, but always recovers again the next morning.

O——d, Friday evening. The worſhipful Mr. Eater, Mayor of this City, and all the Aldermen, who were ſuddenly ſeized with a violent illneſs, ſuppoſed to have been occaſioned by over eating themſelves, are ſo perfectly recovered

vered ſince their return from town, that, we are well aſſured, they muſt have had the beſt advice for their complaint.

On Thurſday laſt ſeveral gentlemen ſet out for their Boroughs, in conſequence of a conſiderable wager laid, which of them performed their canvaſs in the feweſt minutes, and returned to New Market: There are ſeveral bye betts depending, ſome of the gentlemen having been known to do it in 35 minutes and 3 ſeconds. N. B. pay or play.

To be Sold to the Beſt Bidder.

Several members as good as new, that never ſerved but one or two ſittings, and then never opened: The reaſon for diſpoſing of them is, becauſe their ſeveral owner's have got *new ones offered them in their room.*

A large quantity of bottled porter in hampers now to be diſpoſed of, exceeding cheap

cheap and good: The reaſon of ſelling it is, the e—n is like to be over before it can reach the perſons for whom it was intended.

An entertaining kind of Journal; and I moſt heartily pray you, Mr. Devil, to give me leave to put it in my pocket; it will ſerve to entertain when I have more leiſure to examine the contents. Under the article of deaths I ſee an old acquaintance of mine died of a ſurfeit after eating two large plates of veniſon paſty; Mr. Ephraim Gorge, many years a worthy common-council-man of this city. Poor man, I was fearful of the conſequence; Ephraim Gorge dead; well, reſt his ſoul. Increaſed in the burials this week throughout the kingdom, one thouſand.—Put it in your pocket I beſeech you, and let us purſue our journey.

CHAP. XVIII.

THERE is a saying made use of to express an uncommon degree of cunning which some men are possessed of—*as cunning as the devil*;—now it must certainly mean your master devils, for I have some reason to believe that your junior devils have been outwitted. Rabelais relates a story in the 47th chapter of the 4th volume of his works, which confirms me in my opinion. As it is a short tight chapter, and full to my purpose, I would advise the gainsayer to read it. I deny your Minor, quoth the devil, calling up an air of ferocity in his countenance. You mean, I suppose, the junior devil that was deceived by an old woman of Pope-figland. He was the silliest young devil I ever heard

heard of; and I would lay my life, nothing more than a girl dreſſed in boy's cloaths. Was not Solomon a wiſe man, and yet he was outwitted by ſome ſtrange he and ſhe devils, that the ſtrange women he followed introduced to his acquaintance. There was Aſhtoreth, the goddeſs of the Zidonians; and Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites. Chemoſh, the abomination of Moab; and Molech, for whom he built an high place. And we find all over the world that the higheſt national honours were paid to ſome of your devils of quality. Among the Carthegenians it was a kind of worſhip to ſacrifice their children to Saturn, Grand-maſter of devils, the ſame that is ſometimes call'd Moloch, whom their mothers kept throwing into the fire to roaſt, broil, and carbonade, for the devil's ſupper, as I ſuppoſe. And once, during a whole engagement which laſted from

morning to night, one Hamilcar, a maſter cook, was buſied in grilling the young children upon a large fire, like beef-ſtakes at Dolly's. Did you never read of Bull Apis; he was the father of the Golden Calf ſet up by the Iſraelites, and bought in Egypt. After the death of this Bull Apis, the expences of his funeral amounted to no leſs than 11,250l. ſterling. Beſides theſe there was an infinite number of inferior devils in the form of cats and crocodiles, that had a great deal of homage paid to them. But pray, Mr. Devil, how was it that you deceived, cheated, cozened and bambcozled poor people ſo, as to get into ſuch credit and renown. Why we firſt bamboozled them, replies the devil, by giving anſwers through the images which men generally carved to themſelves in memory of their anceſtors. Theſe they held in the higheſt veneration, and conſulted upon the moſt important occaſions;

occaſions ; ſo that by keeping a few little devils always upon guard there, we had a very good opportunity of inclining them to idolatry. Our next buſineſs was to ſet up human ſacrifices, which your Devil Majors ſoon effected in Crete and Afric, in Cyprus, Tenedos and Lacedemonia; in Carthage, France and Germany; and almoſt every where, as ſeveral writers are ready to atteſt. The whole world was a Theatre, as if made entirely for the ſport and paſtime of ſenior devils; and the people in it, ſo fond of following their ſuggeſtions, that there was hardly a green tree that had leaves on it ſufficient to keep an idol from being ſun-burnt, but what was honoured with the company of ſome one or more of theſe devil-worſhippers. What think you were thoſe apparitions that haunted Dion and Brutus, but ſome devils that were determined to waylay them in their purſuit of virtue, entirely

thro'

thro' envy. They can turn themſelves into what forms they pleaſe, and perſonate good demons to inſinuate themſelves into the good graces of people.—So that it doth not appear very probable, that even a junior devil ſhould ever have been outwitted by an old woman of Popefigland.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

CAN any one of my readers ſupply me with the names of any of the noted Egyptian conjurers, for I am in ſuch a confounded hurry, that I cannot go back to ſearch for them. It is no matter whether they were Jannes's or Jambres's, or any other Sieurs; it is ſufficient to ſay that they were great maſters of their art, and performed their grand exhibitions much to the ſatisfaction of all the company: Now I don't doubt but that they performed their grand magical deceptios with a virgula or kind of little rod, which I alſo preſume was hollow within, like thoſe of our modern proficients, who are doubtleſs well inſtructed in all the learning of the

the Egyptians. Now the Egyptian magicians worked wonders, and exhibited their operations before the king, queen, and all the royal family, beſides ſeveral lords in waiting, chief butlers, and chief bakers of the Egyptian court; and probably offered a premium of one hundred guineas to any one that did the like. As they made uſe of the hollow wand or rod, it is not at all improbable, I ſay, but that a maſter devil, or in his abſence a company of little devils, were concealed in the hollow part of the rod; and by the magician's dexterouſly throwing up the rod, and pronouncing, Preſto, be gone, a large ſerpent appeared upon the table, or a thouſand little ones flew out, and produced the murrain in cattle, plagues, &c. Now the former of theſe tricks is not at all more wonderful than Sieur Herman Boaz's grand magical Deceptio Ovorum; for ſuppoſing his rod to be hollow, and the devil's power to aſſume what

ſhape

ſhape he pleaſes, why may he not turn himſelf into fire, and fry the ſaid eggs in any gentleman or lady's hat in the company without ſcorching the hat, which doubtleſs they would be careful not to do: And is not this as good a trick, and as grand a magical operation, as as ever was exhibited by the beſt Egyptian conjurer of them all. Gentle reader, accept of this ſhort chapter by way of digreſſion, or ſtepping a little out of the path to amuſe both you and myſelf, to make our journey the leſs tedious, which, by this time, I conjecture, we are both as tired of, as when we laſt travelled to town in a ſtage-coach, which is not always one of the moſt delectable things in nature: But as we are ſet out, let us make the jaunt as entertaining as poſſible, by ſeeing as many entertaining things as are upon the road, and comfort ourſelves with the thoughts that we are in a new

machine. If any writer is now employed in favouring the world with a new Eſtimate of the Manners and Principles of the Times, and is deſirous of ſhewing the amazing progreſs that hath been made in the conjuring arts, and how far the grand exhibitions of the moderns exceed thoſe of the ancients, he is heartily welcome to tranſlate all I have ſaid in this chapter on the ſubject into his new Eſtimate.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

THE devil not admitting it probable that an old woman of Pope-figland, or any old woman whatever could poſſibly out-wit even a junior devil, I entirely acquieſced with him, and dropt the ſubject.---The confuſion that whole family is in, ſays he, demands your inſtant attention, if you have any deſire to be entertained with an agreeable recital of the occaſion of it. Don't you ſee every one employed, every hand full of buſineſs, lights all over the houſe, in the laundry, ſtables, and the cheeſe-chamber; the maſter of the family, a worthy knight of the ſhire, fitting on a ſuit of blue and gold, which for theſe ſeven years laſt paſt have never ſeen

the day-light, ſaving to themſelves a ſmall portion thereof, which in ſpite of all oppoſition made its way through a narrow crevice. It is a ſuit of apparel which he never puts on, but when he attends the nomination of knights of the ſhire, to which diſtinguiſhed honour his own worth hath recommended him for ſeveral ſucceſſive parliaments. He ſets out to-morrow, to meet the moſt reſpectable men of the county. Heaven be thanked, Mr. Flagel ſays I, and right glad am I to find, that our conſtitution is not quite ſo rotten in all its parts, as to exclude a man of proved integrity and merit, from an honour which nothing elſe can give him ſo fair a title to. But why all that buſtle in his family.---They are all employed in preparing for to-morrow's journey, ſays the Devil. His friends and tenants meet him at breakfaſt, and after celebrating

lebrating the wholeſome old Engliſh cuſtom of toaſt and nutmeg in a morning, fall into proceſſion, and accompany the worthy knight to ſupport his nomination. If I had an hundred voices, and as many tongues, ſi centum linguæ ſint, oraq; centum, believe me maſter Devil he ſhould have them all.-- I will ſhew you the buſieſt ſcene you ever ſaw in your life. We will take a ſhort circuit round the city at this publick time, it cannot fail of preſenting us with objects of amuſement. It is a time of night when the miſerable begin to forget that they are ſo, and having no fears of loſing any thing, conſequently have no cares to diſturb their reſt; they lie expoſed to the open air, which doth not bite ſo ſharp as their wants, and are at this very moment perhaps happier than the gouty and the rich. Drunkeneſs calls her ſons around her, they

dance

dance the *Scotch-real* through every ſtreet, and are ſinging praiſes to thoſe who have ſupplied them with ſtrong drink.— I was exceedingly delighted at this propoſal of the devil's, and whether through the exceſs of pleaſure, or from what other cauſe I know not, I ſuddenly waked from my reverie. Judge, gentle reader, from what you every day ſee practiſed in the broad face of the ſun, what a ſcene one night's tour would have afforded. Could night tell all that was done under covert, and the convenient concealment of her ſable livery, what an aſtoniſhing tale would ſhe pour into our ears. The moon conſcious, for ought I know, if ſhe can hear as well as poets feign that ſhe can ſee, would withdraw while it was told, and retire behind a cloud to ſtop her ears. You may eaſily conceive how much I was ſurprized when I awaked; and is

it

it poſſible, ſays I to myſelf, that I have been only in a dream, when the impreſſion every circumſtance hath left upon my mind, ſeems to aſſure me of the reality of every thing I have ſeen. It was ſome time before I could recover myſelf from the ſtrange confuſion I was in. I was ſo agreeably entertained, that I ſpent ſome minutes in fruitleſs wiſhes, that I had not been diſturbed juſt as I was entering upon ſuch a ſcene as muſt neceſſarily have been diverſified with the moſt ſtrange ſights. The devil was flown, and I had the greateſt reaſon to believe, that all muſt have been an idle deluſion, as I found myſelf exactly in the ſame place as I was before the viſion fell upon me. However, that the world might not continue any longer ignorant of thoſe ſecret and valuable diſcoveries which the devil made to me, together with every thing elſe of uſe that is con-

tained

tained in this faithful narrative, I was inſtantly minded to write down all that paſſed between us; which I have done, gentle reader, under favour of your forgiveneſs, without ſo much as looking back upon what I have wrote, leſt by labouring to be correct, I ſhould forfeit the character of a faithful hiſtorian.

F I N I S.

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MDZ Münchener DigitalisierungsZentrum Digitale Bibliothek

Flagel or a Ramble of Fancy

London 1768

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